



Show-Me Literacy

The "Official" Newsletter of Literacy in Missouri

Issue No. 96
October 2002

Last Mailing...

Newsletter Will Become Online Publication

October will be the final regularly mailed issue of "Show-Me Literacy". The newsletter, which became available electronically last February, will be accessible via the Missouri-DESE AEL website. (www.dese.state.mo.us/divvoced/ael_news.htm).

E-subscribers will be emailed a link to access the monthly newsletter (as a PDF document) on the state website.

To be placed on the "e-list", please send your email address to the contact information on the back of this issue. Those already receiving via email do not need to resend that information unless it has changed.

Event Promotes Literacy Awareness, Raises Funds

by Mary Ann Kramer

In celebration of National Literacy Month, America's Walk for Literacy and Pathways for Success was held in Tower Grove Park in St. Louis on Sept. 28.

Sponsored by the SOAR Foundation and the Literacy Roundtable, the day was filled with musical entertainment, literacy-based activities, delicious food, and of course, people and fun. This first annual event was initiated to promote literacy

Event,
Continued on Page 5



AEL Directors from across the state had an opportunity for "roundtable" discussions during the annual fall meeting held Sept. 24-25 at Tan-Tar-A Resort in Osage Beach.

MO AEL Holds Fall Meeting

Adult Education and Literacy directors from around the state of Missouri converged at Tan-Tar-A Resort in Osage Beach for the annual Fall Director's Meeting Sept. 24 and 25.

A host of information was provided to program directors over the two-day meeting.

DESE-AEL Section Director Steve Coffman welcomed directors to the meeting, noting that many directors and some program instructors had been meeting since Monday, Sept. 23 as part of a "task force" initiative spearheaded by DESE and the AEL Leadership Council.

ACES Coordinator Jamy Preul provided an update on the ACES database system. She said the Technology Center is in the process of testing Version 6, and if all goes well, training for and installation of the new version should begin in mid-October.

MO AEL,
Continued on Page 4

Show Me. . .

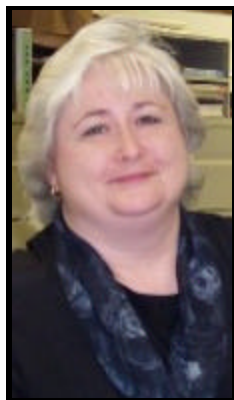
The Inside

From the State.....	2
Special Accommodations....	3
MO AEL (con't).....	4
Mindstorm.....	5
Calendar of Events.....	6

The mission of the "Show-Me Literacy" newsletter is to provide professional information-sharing, resources and news about adult education and literacy.

From The State AEL Office

New Secretary Joins DESE-AEL



Lisa Shehi

Lisa Shehi joined the AEL staff at DESE in July as a Secretary II.

Shehi moved to Jefferson City in April and worked at St. Marys Medical Center, in the interim, through a temporary employment agency. Prior to that, she lived in

Charlotte, N.C., but, as she noted, is from "God's country".

"I'm biased--most people know it as Virginia! Most all of my family (except my husband) is still there," she said.

She considers herself a "career secretary" having worked in that capacity (at higher and lower levels) for a number of years.

Family life consists of a "wonderful husband" and her "children": Buffy--a Cavalier King Charles Spaniel and Tabitha--an orange Tabby cat.

Shehi's many interests include traveling, photography, Civil War era history, shopping (she says she's confirmed "shop-a-holic"), and she loves butterflies.

"My favorite place to shop is Williamsburg, Virginia," said Shehi. "I am also a Pampered Chef® consultant and LOVE doing that."

She said she most enjoys the public interaction aspect of her position at DESE-AEL.

DESE-AEL Office Says Goodbye to Three Staff

The DESE-AEL office in Jefferson City regrettably said goodbye to three of its Section Supervisors in September and October. Johnna Carrender, Cheryl Zimmer, and Sherry Fetzer have left the section to pursue other interests.

Johnna Carrender expects to return to AEL teaching in the Department of Corrections; Cheryl Zimmer will be working at Ft. Leonard Wood designing training programs for Army personnel to be delivered correspondence and/or online; and Sherry Fetzer is returning to her home state of Michigan.

AEL Section Relocates to Jefferson Building

The DESE-AEL Section relocated in early October from their offices at 402 Dix Road to the second floor of the Jefferson Building in downtown Jefferson City. The office's new physical address is 205 Jefferson. However, phone/fax numbers and mailing address remain the same: main phone is (573) 751-1249; fax is (573) 526-5710; and mailing address is P.O. Box 480, Jefferson City, MO 65102.

The Jefferson City GED Testing Center was included in this relocation; the test will now be given at the 205 Jefferson location. GED office phone is (573) 751-3504.

Grant Awards Announced for New Research Network

A new research network unveiled Oct. 2 will study the most effective methods and approaches for teaching reading skills to low-literate adults, using \$18.5 million in grants from the National Institute for Literacy (NIFL), OVAE and the National

Institute of Child Health and Human Development (NICHD). The funds, to be used over a five-year period, will fund six individual research projects focused on adult literacy instruction. Ongoing progress and preliminary findings will be reported after the first year and each year thereafter in the 5-year study.

The projects will design, develop, implement and study the effectiveness of adult literacy interventions for low-literate adults, including the role of decoding, vocabulary, fluency and comprehension instruction and explicitness of instruction.

For more information and a summary document, go to:

http://www.nichd.nih.gov/crmc/cdb/AFI_workshop.htm

Judge: Disabilities Act Does Not Cover Web

A federal judge ruled recently that Southwest Airlines does not have to revamp its Web site to make it more accessible to the blind. In the first case of its kind, U.S. District Judge Patricia Seitz said the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) applies only to physical spaces, such as restaurants and movie theaters, and not to the Internet. A blind user was suing Southwest Airlines stating its Web site did not meet accessibility standards.

The Southwest lawsuit is not the first seeking to force a Web site to adopt accessibility technology. In 1999, the National Federation of the Blind sued America Online, claiming it discriminated against the blind because its system is not accessible to them. The federation later dropped the lawsuit when AOL agreed to make its software compatible with devices designed for visually impaired users. See <http://news.com.com/2100-1023-962761.html> for full article.

GED Special Accommodations Seeks Balance, Equal Testing

Every GED candidate should have a fair chance to demonstrate his/her knowledge and skills. But for some who try to take the test under standard conditions, a disability may make it impossible to show their true potential.

Learning disabilities can affect the ability to store, process, and produce information, or to read, write, speak or do math. In addition, physical disabilities may affect the ability to sit for long periods of time, to write using a pencil and paper, or to read standard type sizes. Emotional disabilities may cause the individual to be distracted easily, or to distract others.

To address such needs, the GED Testing Service offers accommodations for adults with *well-documented* physical and/or learning disabilities, attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder (ADHD), and emotional or psychological disabilities. Accommodations may include: an audiocassette, large print or Braille edition of the test; extended time or a private room; a talking calculator; etc. There is no additional charge for special accommodations.

"The whole goal of the accommodation system is to find ways to help candidates; to allow people who are qualified to have every opportunity to demonstrate their knowledge," explains Joe Macaluso, ED.S., State Administrator of the GED Testing Program in Alabama. "Candidates with disabilities process information differently, which means they learn and demonstrate knowledge differently." The disability may not be curable, but there are "ways to accommodate the disability so that the individuals have every opportunity to demonstrate what they have learned."

The accommodations system seeks a balance—"helping those who genuinely need help, but not giving anyone an

TOTALLY

E News and notes from the Missouri Adult Education & Literacy Technology Center.

C

H

N

O

L

O

G

Y

Technology staff:

Jamy Preul,
Jason Ralls,
and
Phyllis Shelby

Technology Center at Trenton Up and Running

by John Stains, Director
MO AEL Technology Center

Things have been very busy for the Technology Center. We spent most of September training our Tech Trainers and setting up procedures. Through October and November, Jason and Phyllis have been traveling through their regions working on getting programs back up to par, technology-wise.

By state directive, Jamy has been traveling the state getting ACES loaded and we hope to have all programs set up with the new version of ACES by the end of November.

Our hunt for a Technology Trainer for the Southern

Region is moving forward and we hope to have someone hired by the time this is printed. Our entire Technology Center staff will be traveling through the great South in early December to try get as much done as possible to help those programs with their technology needs.

A couple of quick reminders: AEL Directors can schedule trainings for their programs by contacting Jamy Preul at aelcentral@socket.net. Training enrollment forms should be sent to the Technology Center at moaeltc@mail.ncmc.cc.mo.us. Please be sure the training has been scheduled before you send in the enrollment form. Also Jamy, Phyllis and Jason have office days once a week to assist the entire state via email or by phone. All program directors have the office schedule, email addresses and phone numbers, or contact the center at (660) 339-7521. Happy Teching!!

unfair advantage. This program is designed to put everyone on an equal footing," he notes.

Each request for an accommodation will be considered on an individual basis and must document the disability. Form L-15, for learning disabilities and/or ADHD; or Form SA-001, for physical, emotional or psychological disabilities can assist a candidate in documenting that the disability involved interferes substantially with the learning process.

"Often, a candidate already has records; he or she may have been diagnosed with ADHD in school, for example. In that case, the school records can be submitted with the form," Macaluso says. People who have never been diagnosed will need physical and/or psychological testing to identify the problem; and documentation on the health professional's letterhead. Forms should be submitted to the appropriate GED Chief Examiner in the student's home area at

least one month before the scheduled testing date.

GED administrators don't make diagnoses, Macaluso stresses. Rather, they review the documentation, and confirm that the candidate has the potential to perform successfully on the test with accommodations in place. They also confirm that the accommodation requested is appropriate for the disability in question.

To learn more about special accommodations, visit the American Council on Education web site at: www.acenet.edu/calec/ged/disability-accom-TT.html, or visit the GED Testing Service web site at www.gedtest.org.

Article reprinted with permission from Spring '02 KET Adult Learning Quarterly, published by KET, The Kentucky Network, Enterprise Division, Lexington, Ky.

MO AEL

(Continued from Page 1)

Michael Griggs, DESE-AEL finance supervisor, discussed budgetary issues. Directors had several questions about use of EER (Expansion, Enhancement Request) funding. Griggs also said final budgets would be provided when performance data was available unless a decision was made to provide funding based on the previous years' performance data.

John Stains, Trenton AEL Director, provided a packet of information on the AEL Technology Center, now located at North Central Missouri College at Trenton. He introduced two newly-hired trainers: Phyllis Shelby for the East Area and Jason Ralls for the North Area. Preul will continue to serve as the trainer for the Central Area. Stains said applicants were still being sought for a South Area trainer.

Dale Wimer, with the Workforce Development Division of DESE discussed the status of a proposal where AEL programs can provide equitable support to partner activities within the One-Stop System. The financial support of operations is for the "WIB Designated Full Service Center" to be an allowable use of AEL funding. He said an agreement should be reached in the near future.

An update on the GED On-line project was provided by program administrator Janet Geary, Director with the North Kansas City AEL Program. She said the project is working well and many students had been successful in obtaining their GED by studying online.

AEL Resource Center Director Dr. Judith Moore provided upcoming regional in-service and workshop information in addition to an FY02 activities report from the center.

Missouri GED Director Bill Poteet presented information on GED 2002 national and state results. He said the number taking the test from Missouri decreased by 346 in FY 02. A total of 14,131 tested in FY 01 compared to 13,785 in FY 02. The total passing the test was 9,291 in FY 02. (See related chart)

Poteet also distributed test-taker characteristic/profile information, gathered in

FY02, from completed demographic forms.

"Money Smart", an adult education program developed by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC), was presented by Kim Milward with the Maryville AEL program. The program was developed to help adults outside the "financial mainstream" enhance their money skills and create "positive banking relationships." The program consists of eight 60-90 minutes workshops on such "how-to" topics as introduction to bank services, balancing a checkbook, using credit, purchasing a home, and others.

The evening speaker was Patricia Bates of El Dorado, Ark., who spoke on the the Workforce Alliance for Growth (WAGE) Program developed by the Arkansas Department of Workforce Education.

Wednesday

Continuous Quality Improvement (CQI), Data, and Marketing were the main topics for day two of the meeting.

St. Louis AEL Director Bob Weng and AEL Supervisor Charlie DeSha presented information on CQI components, data flow, intake and goal setting, and data quality.

John Stains continued the discussion with data analysis, participation, student progress, improvement planning and developing quality improvement plans.

Round table discussions took place in the afternoon, as directors had an opportunity to share best practices regarding ESL grants, EL/Civics grants, Special Literacy grants, family literacy,



Directors discuss data analysis during a session at the AEL Director's meeting.



Johnna Carrender, who left AEL-DESE at the end of September, was "queen for a day" as AEL Directors honored her at their September meeting. Carrying Johnna on her "special throne" is Trenton AEL Director John Stains (left) and AEL Finance Supervisor Mike Griggs.

the GED Option program, multi-level ESL, and teacher performance incentives/prep-time.

Marketing ideas and best practices were also shared among directors. Many brought and displayed marketing items such as brochures, advertisements, and other promotional items.

The next Missouri AEL Director's Meeting will be held in Spring, 2003.

Missouri Students Passing the GED			
Year	Total Statewide	AEL Students	Non-AEL Students
FY 97	9,452	6,543	2,918
FY 98	10,084	7,139	2,945
FY 99	10,867	7,709	3,158
FY 00	10,310	7,070	3,240
FY 01	10,601	6,597	4,004
FY 02	9,291	5,078	4,213



Working on a robot, from left, are: Lou Rae Slater, Josh Powell, Gordon Streitenberger, Kristine Berry, Okel Sizemore, and Sharon Shoemaker (AEL facilitator).

Mindstorm Robots Incorporate Technology in the AEL Classroom

by Sharon Shoemaker

Lego Mindstorm Robots have hit the Literacy Center! Moberly Area Community College has graciously loaned us a Mindstorm Kit. What is Lego Mindstorm? It is a program that incorporates math, science, computers, invention, and technology education into hands-on Lego projects.

Our students will design robots for specific purposes, and then program them on a computer to make them work. The robots will be able to pick up things and move them. They can be programmed to follow a maze, sense light, and mimic flight. The possibilities are numerous.

We hope to use these robots to teach math, science and creativity and to open the minds of our students to the idea of working towards a job in a technical field.

We've had the robot one day. Already, our students are immersed in designing a robot that will navigate easily around our room. We haven't even gotten to the computer programming. It's great to see the students work together and use problem-solving skills.

For more information, see the website at www.lego.com/dacta/robolab/rexprograms.htm

Sharon Shoemaker is a Macon R-I AEL Instructor at the Family Literacy Center located at 204 Crescent in Macon, Mo.

Event

(Continued from Page 1)

awareness and raise funds for local literacy organizations.

In addition to the 1.5 mile walk through the park, the day included an area designated "Pathways for Success" featuring interactive themed stations such as Pathways to Sports, Mystery, Adventure, and the Future. Games, computers, basketball hoops, the Magic House's bubble machine, and similar activities were available at each location. The "Meet the Authors" booth featured local

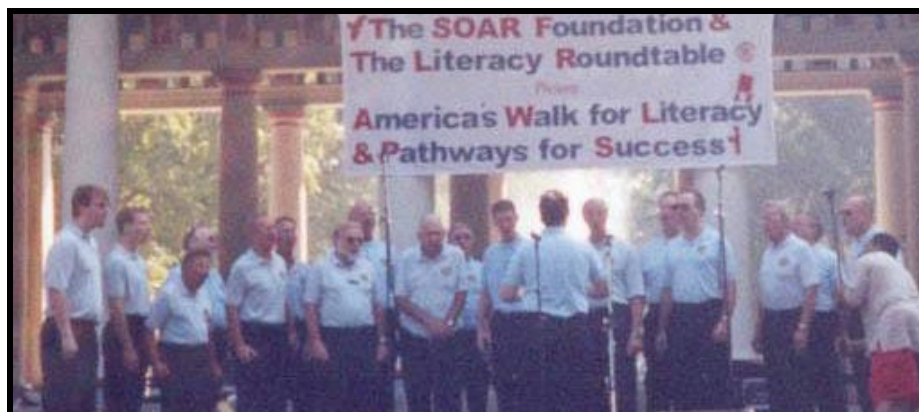
authors signing and selling their books. And, an A-Maze-ing Art Contest displayed school children's artwork recognizing those that won special awards.

Charles Jaco of KMOX Radio emceed the day's activities including musical entertainment by the St. Louis Symphony Brass, the Munny Kids, the Infra Red Rockers Reggae Band, Dasha Ray, the Spirit of St. Louis Barbershop Chorus, Michael Mason's banjo performance, and the Roosevelt High Ethnic Delegates. Clifford the Big Red Dog, Arthur, the Cat in the Hat, a Knight in Armor, the Rams Cheerleaders -- all made special appearances and were available for pictures. Various prizes were given away throughout the day.

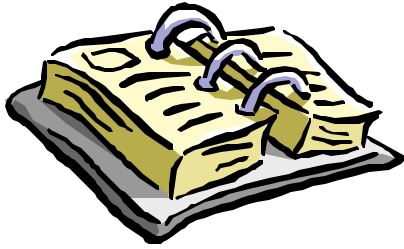
The SOAR Foundation is a local philanthropic organization and The Literacy Roundtable is a consortium of literacy providers from throughout the Metropolitan St. Louis and southern Illinois region. Several Missouri Adult Education and Literacy (AEL) programs are active members of the Roundtable including Rockwood, Parkway, St. Louis Community College-Meramec, University City, Ritenour, and St. Louis Public Schools, as well as, the YMCA Literacy Council, LIFT-Missouri, St. Louis Public Library, Missouri Humanities Council, and others.

Building on the success of this first time event, plans are already being formulated for next year.

Mary Ann Kramer is Literacy Coordinator for St. Louis Public Schools and President of The Literacy Roundtable.



The Spirit of St. Louis Barbershop Chorus was one of many musical performances at the America's Walk for Literacy & Pathways for Success.



Show-Me....

What's Happening

51st National American Adult and Continuing Ed. Conference (AAACE)

Nov. 20-23, 2002
Hyatt-Regency Hotel at
Union Station
St. Louis, Mo.

www.aaace.org/member/apply.html

National Association for Adults with Special Learning Needs (NAASLN)

March 16-18, 2003
Columbus, Ohio
www.naasln.com

2002 COABE National Conference

April 26-30, 2003
Portland, Ore.
www.ninestar.com/coabe

Show-Us...Your Stuff!

If you have comments,
questions, or story ideas,
please send them to
Cheryl Harlan, Editor,

by Mail:

Rolla Technical Institute
1304 E. 10th Street
Rolla, MO 65401

Phone: 573•458•0150

Fax: 573•458•0155

Email:

charlan@rolla.k12.mo.us
Digital photos requested;
regular photos will be scanned.

The "Show-Me Literacy"
newsletter is distributed nation-
wide to adult educators and
those with related interests.
**Unless otherwise noted, the
material in this publication is
not copyrighted. Please feel
free to use it in the cause
of adult education.**

Show-Me Literacy Advisory Board

Virginia Hendley, Missouri
Department of Corrections,
Jefferson City.

Karen Jones, Missouri State Library,
Jefferson City.

Margaret Silver, English Language
and Literacy Center, St. Louis.

Subscription Information

**Send address changes/
cancellations by mail or email.
Please submit email address to
receive email link to newsletter.**

This publication was produced pursuant to a
grant from the Director, Adult Education &
Literacy, Missouri Department of Elementary &
Secondary Education, under the authority of Title
II of the Workforce Investment Act. The opinions
expressed herein do not necessarily reflect the
position or policy of the Missouri Department of
Elementary & Secondary Education or the U.S.
Office of Education, and no official endorsement
by these agencies should be inferred.

Show-Me Literacy

Editor: Cheryl Harlan
Rolla Technical Institute
1304 E. 10th St.
Rolla, MO 65401

Nonprofit Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
Rolla MO 65401
Permit No. 94